7th joint Australia – New Zealand Mathematics Convention

Rick Beatson[*]

The seventh joint Australia New Zealand Mathematics Convention was held at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, 8–12 December 2008.

The conference combined two annual events, the Annual Meeting of the Australian Mathematical Society, and the New Zealand Mathematics Colloquium.

The conference was a spectacular success. It ran very smoothly, and the IT, morning teas, and lecture rooms were complimented by many. It was attended by 303 delegates and thus was New Zealand's largest mathematics meeting since the first joint mathematics convention held in Christchurch in 1978. The 303 delegates comprised 118 Australians, 115 New Zealanders and substantial numbers from Fiji, North America, Asia, Western and Eastern Europe, and elsewhere.

There were 10 plenary speakers of 'international superstar' status and 16 themed special sessions attracting scores of high quality speakers.

Plenary speakers Jon Borwein and Carl de Boor (Photo: Birgit Loch)

The local organising committee is very grateful for the generous support of all our sponsors. Substantial contributions towards invited speakers costs were made by the Australian Mathematical Society and the Department of Mathematics, University of Canterbury. Other substantial sponsors were the New Zealand Institute

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for Mathematics and its Applications which sponsored a well attended and most enjoyable reception at the Staff Club on the Monday night, and also contributed toward student travel costs. The New Zealand Mathematical Society contributed some wonderfully untagged funding, and ANZIAM sponsored the travel of the ANZIAM speaker.

Social highlights of the meeting were the receptions on Sunday and Monday nights, the excursion to the Crater Rim Walkway, Sumner Beach, or wineries, on the Wednesday afternoon, and the conference dinner on the Thursday night. The Australian Mathematical Society's B.H. Neumann student prize was won by Nicole Kleinstreuer and the NZMS Aitken student prize by Marieke Fischer.

The local organising committee would like to express their thanks to the Australian Mathematical Society, Mathai Vhargese, and especially Elizabeth Billington, for their help in making the convention a great success. We would also like to thank Paul Brouwers for his usual stellar work on IT and web support.

The conference made a slight profit and we are pleased to report that as well as returning the AUSTMS float of NZ$4 696.46 we were able to return an additional NZ$1725.07 being AUSTMS's half-share of the profits.

Plenary speaker Cheryl Praeger
(Photo: Birgit Loch)

Rick Beatson is an Associate Professor at the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Canterbury. He specialises in the approximation theory and numerical analysis of splines and kernel-based methods.